

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/955,331

Examiner

Lewis A. Bullock, Jr.

Applicant(s)

SASNOWITZ, HAROLD

Art Unit

2195

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to response filed 7/26/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-21.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 18 September 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

LEWIS A. BULLOCK, JR.
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Marshall Curtis on August 24, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 (Amended). A computer-implemented method for identifying a configuration using an identifier having a sequence of digits, said configuration having a plurality of parameters and each of the parameters having a plurality of options, particular options for respective parameters differentiating respective configurations, said method including steps of:

assigning respective digits to different parameters of the configuration,

assigning a value to each option for each parameter of the configuration, and

constructing the identifier based on the value of each option corresponding to the configuration, wherein said identifier is not changed when additional digits are required to accommodate subsequent additional parameters or options.

Claim 8 (Amended). A computer-implemented method of identifying a configuration using an identifier having a sequence of digits, said configuration having a plurality of

parameters and each of the parameters having a plurality of options, particular options for respective parameters differentiating respective configurations, said method comprising steps of:

- assigning respective digits of the identifier to different parameters of the configuration,
- assigning a value to each option for each parameter, and
- constructing the identifier by assigning the value of each option corresponding to the configuration to the digit of the identifier corresponding to the parameter for the option, wherein said identifier is not changed when additional digits are required to accommodate subsequent additional parameters or options.

Claim 12 (Amended. A computer-implemented method of identifying a configuration using an identifier having a sequence of digits, said configuration having a plurality of parameters and each of the parameters having a plurality of options, particular options for respective parameters differentiating respective configurations, said method comprising steps of:

- for each parameter of the configuration, assigning at least one digit of the identifier exclusively to the parameter,
- assigning a value to each option for each parameter, and
- constructing the identifier by assigning the value of each option corresponding to the configuration to a digit of the identifier corresponding to the parameter for the option,

wherein said identifier is not changed when additional digits are required to accommodate subsequent additional parameters or options.

Claim 13 (Amended). A computer-implemented system for identifying a configuration using an identifier having a sequence of digits, said configuration having a plurality of parameters and each of the parameters having a plurality of options, one of said options for each parameter corresponding to the configuration, said system including:

means for assigning each digit of the identifier to a different parameter of the configuration,

means for assigning a value to each option for each parameter, and

means for constructing the identifier based on the value of each option corresponding to the configuration, wherein said identifier is not changed when additional digits are required to accommodate subsequent additional parameters or options.

Claim 20 (Amended) A computer-implemented system for providing information concerning subject matter having multiparameter configurations, the system including records for desired multiparameter configurations, the multiparameter configurations having a plurality of parameters and each of the parameters having a plurality of options, one of the options for each parameter corresponding to a distinct multiparameter configuration, each of the records including:

an identifier for the desired multiparameter configuration, said identifier including a digit for each parameter of the multiparameter configuration; and

information concerning the subject matter having the multiparameter configuration identified by the identifier;

said system including:

means for assigning each digit of the identifier to a different parameter of the configuration,

means for assigning a value to each option for each parameter, and

means for constructing the identifier based on the value of each option corresponding to the configuration, wherein said identifier is not changed when additional digits are required to accommodate subsequent additional parameters or options.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claims are allowable for at least the following reasons: All of the claims detail the identifier of a configuration as a sequence of digits wherein the digits correspond to option values of respective parameters of a respective configuration wherein the identifier is not changed when additional digits are required to accommodate subsequent additional parameters or options. As detailed in the response filed July 26, 2005, the prior art cited does not teach the cited identifier and its capability of not having to be changed when additional digits are required to accommodate subsequent additional parameters or options as

detailed in the claims. Newly cited U.S. Patents 4,360,914 and 5,689,247 and U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0169977 also details sequences or strings of digits that may represent parameters or options of data (see in particular U.S. Patent 4,360,914). However, similar arguments can be made in regards to these cited references, i.e. the prior art cited does not teach the cited identifier and its capability of not having to be changed when additional digits are required to accommodate subsequent additional parameters or options as detailed in the claims. Therefore, the claims are allowable over the cited prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lewis A. Bullock, Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-3759. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng An can be reached on (571) 272-3756. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

August 24, 2005



LEWIS A. BULLOCK, JR.
PRIMARY EXAMINER